



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/803,039

03/18/2004

Tadayuki Sugimoto

09473.0001

5617

22852

7590

09/12/2008

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER
LLP

901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER

PARK, CHAN S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/12/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/803,039	Applicant(s) SUGIMOTO, TADAYUKI	
	Examiner CHAN S. PARK	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 13-18, 25-30, 37-39 and 41-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 13-18, 25-30 and 37-39 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 41-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 5/28/08, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-6, 13-18, 25-30, 37-39 and 41-49** are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 41-49 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. **Claims 41-49** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The claims recite a limitation of "a page printer" wherein the page printer is defined, by the applicant in page 13 of the Remark filed on 5/28/08, as a printer which prepares a whole page before starting the printing process of the page. The claims appear to further define the printer 200 shown in figs. 1 & 2 as a page printer. However,

Art Unit: 2625

the original Specification does not describe that the printer 200 is a page printer. Based on figs. 20 & 20, the Examiner understands that the printer of current invention receives the entire image data before start printing (S1502~1503). However, the Specification does not limit this particular printer to be a page printer.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 41-44 and 46-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,661,531 (hereinafter Murphy) in view of Iwami et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0070672 (hereinafter Iwami) and further in view of Iida Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-076649.

With respect to claim 41, Murphy discloses an image forming device (printer 14 in fig. 1) for forming an image from image data transferred from an image data storage device (host computer 12 having a memory unit 18 in fig. 1) via an external interface (interface connecting the PC and the printer in fig. 1 & col. 4, line 50) that can be connected to said image data storage device, comprising:

a data size acquiring unit that acquires data size of said image data, for which an image is formed, from said image data storage device (data size sent by the PC in col. 4, lines 33-38 & lines 54-56); and

Art Unit: 2625

a calculating unit for calculating transfer completion time required for transferring said image data, for which said image is formed, based on said data size of the image data acquired by said data size acquiring unit (the amount of data to be received in col. 4, lines 54-56) and a speed of transferring data (estimate data rate in col. 4, lines 40-53) via said external interface (printer calculating the data transfer time in col. 4, lines 54-56).

Murphy, however, does not explicitly disclose that the image data storage device is a portable image data storage device.

Iwami discloses a printer for directly receiving print data from a portable image data storage device such as a digital camera via external interfaces (fig. 5 & paragraph 51).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the image forming device to receive the image data from the digital camera as taught by Iwami.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a direct communication between the printer and the digital camera for printing images without a host computer (paragraph 6 of Iwami).

The combination, however, does not disclose that the printer is a page printer.

Iida, the same field of endeavor of selecting optimum interface for transferring image data, discloses a page printer for receiving image data via a selected interface (abstract & paragraphs 0028~0029).

Art Unit: 2625

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a page printer in the system of Murphy.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a calculating function for calculating transfer completion time required for transferring said image data in a page printer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine three references to obtain the invention as specified in claim 41.

With respect to claim 42, Murphy discloses the image forming device further calculating: output completion time required for image forming output of the image data, for which said image is formed (calculating print process time in col. 5, lines 25-33).

With respect to claim 43, Murphy discloses the image forming device further comprising: an output setup information receiving unit for receiving output setup information to be set up concerning image forming output condition (unit for receiving user selection of quality settings in col. 5, lines 54-56).

With respect to claim 44, Murphy discloses the image forming device but it does not explicitly disclose a cancellation capability notifying unit for notifying that it is possible to cancel a connection with said image data storage device before the image forming output is completed for said image data, for which an image is formed, after the transfer is completed for said image data, for which an image is formed.

Iwami discloses a cancellation capability notifying unit for notifying that it is possible to cancel a connection with said image data storage device before the image forming output is completed for said image data, for which an image is formed, after the

Art Unit: 2625

transfer is completed for said image data, for which an image is formed (unit for sending the JobDataDone command for notifying that all job data have been received to the digital camera in paragraph 61 & fig. 13). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that this command is a notification to the digital camera that it is possible to cancel the connection between the two devices since it directly causes the digital camera to inform the user to disconnect the connection.

Furthermore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the image forming device of Murphy to include the cancellation capability notifying unit as taught by Iwami.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to inform the user before the completion of a print process of a digital image that the connection can be disconnected (paragraph 4 of Iwami).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine three references to obtain the invention as specified in claim 44.

With respect to claims 46, Iwami discloses that said image data storage device is a digital camera (the printer connected to the digital camera in fig. 5).

With respect to claims 47, Murphy discloses that said image data storage device is a recording medium (memory unit 18 in host computer of fig. 1).

With respect to claim 48, Murphy discloses an image forming system (fig. 1), comprising:

a personal computer (host computer 12); and

Art Unit: 2625

an image forming device (printer 14) for forming an image from image data transferred from said PC via an external interface that can be connected to said PC (interface connecting the PC and the printer in fig. 1 & col. 4, line 50);

said PC including:

a transmitting unit for transmitting data size of image data, for which said image is formed, to said image forming device (PC sending the data size according to col. 4, lines 33-38 & lines 54-56);

said image forming device including:

a receiving unit for receiving the data size of the image data, for which said image is formed, from said PC (interface connecting the PC and the printer in fig. 1 & col. 4, line 50); and

a calculation unit for calculating transfer completion time required for transferring said image data, for which said image is formed, based on said data size of the image data received by said receiving unit (the amount of data to be received in col. 4, lines 54-56) and a speed of transferring data (the estimated data rate in col. 4, lines 40-53) via said external interface (printer calculating the data transfer time in col. 4, lines 54-56).

Murphy, however, does not explicitly disclose a digital camera for transmitting data size and image data for printing via the external interface.

Iwami discloses a printer for directly receiving print data from a digital camera via external interfaces (fig. 5 & paragraph 51).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the image forming device to receive the image data from the digital camera as taught by Iwami.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a direct communication between the printer and the digital camera for printing images without a host computer (paragraph 6 of Iwami).

The combination, however, does not disclose that the printer is a page printer.

Iida, the same field of endeavor of selecting optimum interface for transferring image data, discloses a page printer for receiving image data via a selected interface (abstract & paragraphs 0028~0029).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a page printer in the system of Murphy.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a calculating function for calculating transfer completion time required for transferring said image data in a page printer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine three references to obtain the invention as specified in claim 48.

With respect to claim 49, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 41, are applicable.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. **Claims 1-6, 13-18, 25-30 and 37-39** are allowed.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAN S. PARK whose telephone number is (571)272-7409. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/CHAN S PARK/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625
/Edward L. Coles/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

September 8, 2008